

June 17, 1954

Mr. Francis Bello
Science Editor
FORTUNE magazine
Rockefeller Center
New York 20, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bello:

Thank you for your letters of May 6 and June 14 and for the "small" memento sent with the latter. I have been amused to find how surprisingly many people read Fortune that I would not have thought to be likely prospects.

May I say that I thought you did a good job with the limited material at hand. I would not be convinced of the rigor of any conclusions from such a small sample, and have some doubts as to the representative quality of the samples, but these are not criticisms of your reportorial achievement. There are always too many possible interpretations for any factual findings that do, after long labor, achieve statistical significance to make such labors seem much more science than art. The same can be said of such a monumental effort as the Kinsey reports, which are still grossly inadequate from a statistical viewpoint. But I do not think your article was in any way pretentious, and as it was fairly clear that your subjective impressions were in the forefront, one can hardly criticize them or fear any untoward misunderstandings.

To answer one line of your first letter, I was neither surprised nor relieved (nor disappointed) at the use you explicitly made of our interview; privately, I might wonder if you did get any sort of coherent insight or impression of scientists' attitude about science. I might be disappointed if you did not find as much individuality as in other features of their personalities.

If you find yourself in these parts again, drop by for lunch or a glass of beer.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg